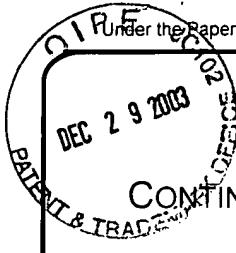


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## REQUEST

FOR

## CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)

## TRANSMITTAL

Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number

09/518,041

Filing Date

March 2, 2000

First Named Inventor

Jerding, D.F.

Group Art Unit

2697

RECEIVED

DEC 31 2003

2600

Examiner Name

Demicco, M.R.

Technology Center

Attorney Docket Number

A-6284 (191910-1240)

**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.**

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCE's (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
- a.  Previously Submitted. IF a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
    - i.  Consider the amendment(s) reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on November 28, 2003
    - ii.  Other:
  - b.  Enclosed
    - i.  Amendment/Reply
    - ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
    - iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
    - iv.  Other:
2. **Miscellaneous**
- a.  Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required).
  - b.  Other:
3. **Fees**
- a.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No.
    - i.  RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
    - ii.  Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
    - iii.  Other:
  - b.  Check in the amount of \$ enclosed.
  - c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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770.00 0P

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print Type)	Jeffrey R. Kuester	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	34,367
Signature		Date	12/24/03

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Jeffrey R. Kuester	Date	12/24/03
Signature			

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. This information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending on the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1455, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.